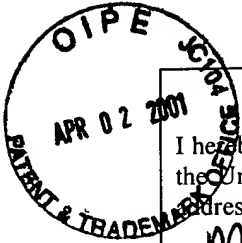


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Melissa Hardy
Signature

March 28, 2001

Date

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Group Art Unit: 1638

DE VRIES et al.

APPLICATION NO.: 09/180,798

Examiner: MEHTA, A

FILED: 11/16/98

Docket: S-137-1103/S

FOR: PRODUCTION OF APOMICTIC SEED

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This is Applicants' reply to the communication from the Examiner of February 15, 2001 in which the Examiner pointed out that Applicants' November 30, 2000 reply was not fully responsive to the prior Office action. In particular, it appears that the § 112 first paragraph rejections set forth in paragraphs 22 and 23 of the prior Office action were not addressed by Applicants. Applicants regret not fully responding, and appreciate the Examiner pointing this out and allowing for a full response below. Applicants now address the §112 first paragraph rejections set forth in paragraphs 22 and 23 of the August 1, 2000 Office action.